

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

Fiscal Year 2004

A total of \$377,609 was earned from investment interest, stock and mutual fund earnings in FY 04. These earnings are down approximately \$275,000 from the prior fiscal year. The General Fund received \$190,541, the Enterprise Funds received \$67,183, the Community Preservation Fund received \$1,650, the Stabilization Fund received \$96,957, the Health Insurance Fund received \$5,928, the Worker's Compensation Fund received \$2,823 and the Trust Funds received \$12,526. Municipalities are not allowed to invest for a period greater than one year. Interest rates hovered at historic lows in FY 04, ranging from an average of 0.99% in July 2003 to 1.03% in June 2004. Certificate of Deposit rates varied from 1.65% early in the year to 2.00% by June.

There were three borrowings during FY 04. A bond, in the amount of \$4,000,000, was issued in October 2003 for the Crocker Farm School Project and Chapel Hill Sewer Extension. This bond is for fifteen years, with the sewer portion retiring in ten years. The net interest rate on this bond is 3.37%. Also in October 2003 the remaining portion of Crocker Farm School Project temporary debt, in the amount of \$5,505,000, was renewed for one year at an interest rate of 1.04%. In April 2004, the Cherry Hill Golf Course clubhouse and irrigation loan was renewed at an interest rate of 1.35%. The amount borrowed for this project was \$57,000 after a paydown of \$57,000. The bond will be retired at maturity in April 2005.

The Treasurer's Office manages the tax titles for the Town. During August, the unpaid 2003 taxes were added to already established tax title accounts: 50 properties, totaling \$84,923. Twenty-one new properties were placed in tax title accounts during FY 04, totaling \$24,750. There were 24 properties removed from tax title accounts during the year. Payments totaled \$113,884. Additional interest collected totaled \$32,223.

The following revenues were collected through the Central Service Counter, with the help of the Collector's Staff:

Select Board	\$143,104	Rentals	\$ 34,542
Assessor's Office	21,768	Town Clerk	89,395
Zoning	2,371	Planning	8,645
Police	167,766	Fire, EMS, Dispatch	73,549
Inspections	478,479	Public Works	339,711
Health	101,907	Conservation	6,550
Library	102,771	Leisure Services	1,101,788
Cherry Hill Golf	220,156	Veterans	0
Animal Welfare	1,165		

In addition to these funds, the Treasurer's Office also processes receipts from various sources. State Aid receipts totaled \$12,241,789, General Fund revenues totaled \$151,563 and special County assessments totaled \$592,149. This office also processes all the revenue generated through the Collector's Office. In FY 04, the Collector's Office processed \$35,586,835 in receipts.

During FY 04, there were 6 taxpayers who took advantage of Clause 41A, which allows the elderly to defer payment of their real estate taxes. There are currently 5 properties with deferred taxes amounting to \$78,584. The interest rate on deferred tax is 8% until the property is sold or

the eligible taxpayer is deceased. The interest rate then increases to 16% until payment is received. One property was redeemed during FY 04, totaling \$9,108. The additional interest paid was \$3,744.

I want to thank staff and the citizens of Amherst for their warm welcome to me as I began my tenure in September 2004. I also want to thank retired Treasurer/Collector Norma Lynch for her years of outstanding service to the Town and her assistance in this transition. Lastly, I want to acknowledge Assistant Treasurer Cheri Boucher for her dedicated work with other Town departments and her unfailingly courteous and professional assistance to taxpayers and the general public.

Submitted by

John P. Musante
Finance Director/Treasurer